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BLUEBEARD A VIVISECTIONIST!

Baron de Retz, the Story's
Historical Original, Now Proved
to Have Been a Brilliant Scientist
Misled by Over-Zeal into
Torturing Women and Children

base metals into gold, the idea that absorbed nearly all the students of the Middle Ages.

He shut himself in his castle of Machecoul, admitting only a few repulsive retainers to his confidence. Among these the leaders were two men named Henriot and Polton, and a woman known as "La Meffraie."

Gradually terrible stories began to spread through the thinly settled countryside concerning the lord of this great castle. Daughters of peasants and even of citizens of the towns left their homes and were never seen again. The woman "La Meffraie" was found to have spoken to them before they began to disappear for miles around the castle.

The Baron de Retz was vivisectioning these victims in the great inner hall of his castle. Walls eight feet thick protected him from intrusion, and prevented the cries of his victims from reaching the outside world.

Surprise has been expressed that the story teller should have made Bluebeard a murderer of his wives, when the historical monster, Baron de Retz, did not find his victims among them. The difficulty is now cleared up for it appears that De Retz vivisectioned at least one woman who expected to be his wife. This victim was his young kinswoman and ward, Isabelle de Craon, who doubtless went to the castle unsuspecting on account of their relationship, probably accompanied by forgotten female attendants whose blood and bones helped to fatten the charnel house.

The new document brought to light consists of a diary closely written on ancient yellow parchment, in which he keeps a lengthy record of his experiments in mediaeval Latin. In one place in his diary he writes:

"I give thanks to my guardian demon that I have completed a very marvelous and ingenious operation upon my young kinswoman, Isabelle de Craon, who was brought to the castle in the expectation that I would sign a contract of marriage with her."

"I removed the right arm of Isabelle and grafted in its place the right arm of the dark maiden I received from Brileux on Wednesday."

I bound Isabelle to the bench with broad straps so arranged as to hold her still while not stopping the movement of the blood. (Apparently the Baron de Retz had a good idea of the circulation of the blood.) I gagged her because her outcries interfered with my work and she several times essayed to bite me.

"I divided the arm between the shoulder joint and the large external triangular muscle with knives which I have constructed for this work, having tried this operation many times before arriving at my present perfection. I removed the arm of the dark maiden in a similar manner, having previously remarked that it was of a suitable size. I then joined the dark maiden's arm to the stump of Isabelle's arm, fitting into a corresponding depression in the stump. I joined the muscles and nerves of the opposing flesh surfaces with fine gut obtained from human intestines and preserved in a mixture of salt."

"I then covered the arm with a mixture of potter's clay, which I have prepared so that it dries and hardens within the hour. This made any movement of the stump whatever impossible."

"I proceeded to other operations upon the dark maiden, and as the outcome of them she gave up the spirit at the end of three days. In the meanwhile, I had left Isabelle to recover from her wound. I took great care that she received the best of nursing and food which would conduce to her speedy recovery."

"At the end of eight days I broke the clay covering and found the grafted arm was well knit to the stump. The damsel moved it as though it had been her own arm. I doubt not that had she lived longer she would have been able to use this arm which I had given her as well as the one with which she was born. On the ninth day, unhappily, she manifested a high fever, which resisted all my efforts to assuage it. She regarded me with unconquerable aversion, screaming most piteously whenever I came near to give her medicine and necessary attention. I doubt not that this perverse state of mind helped greatly to bring on her lamentable death, which

made my glorious experiment a less evident and demonstrable success than I could have desired."

The Baron de Retz speaks of his attempts to transplant the kidneys of one person to another. These experiments he claims to have been great successes, although sooner or later all of the victims appear to have died. Apparently he was able to remove a kidney without causing immediate death. This alone would show that he was over 400 years in advance of his time as a surgeon.

He mentions many curious experiments, some wanting and useless, and others indicating a valuable comprehension of surgery and anatomy. He speaks of removing a gland in the neck (evidently the thyroid) from a child and finding that growth of the body ceases. He watches the child for two years. He tries the same operation on a woman and finds that she becomes an idiot.

Many of the operations are of a nature that cannot be even hinted at in a lay publication. They are complicated with strange blasphemies and insane practices.

He makes a pact with Satan, who meets him at midnight in a deserted chapel and promises him the secret of making gold and creating life. The consideration is that Baron de Retz shall give a hundred pure young souls to Satan.

The Baron speaks of a young woman who escaped from his clutches after seeing his still living victims carved almost out of human semblance, and the many horrors of his great vivisection chamber. This girl is rescued by her lover and a band of companions, who reach her prison by an underground passage. The castle was so strong that it

"Opened the door of the secret chamber to see it adorned with the heads of maidens of high and low degree, sacrificed to the remorseless ardor of this early vivisectionist."

would have required an army to take it by force.

The Baron de Retz records the fact that he is beginning to find children more interesting as subjects of experiments than women. He speaks of the large numbers brought in by his confederates and later complains that they are becoming scarce.

It is calculated that de Retz destroyed 513 human victims by vivisection during the nine years in which he was engaged in his scientific researches. Scores of bones, mostly those of children, have been discovered beneath the castle of

Machecoul. So powerful was de Retz, that no lay authority could lay hands on him, but a brave and determined bishop, after years of struggle, brought him to trial at Nantes. To the charges of murder were added accusations of sacrilege and blasphemy of the most dreadful character, thus ensuring his condemnation.

The judgment of the court was that he be hanged and burnt to death at the same time. He met his end with great dignity and calmness. His two leading accomplices suffered the same fate with him.

Paris, June 1. SEARCH of the archives of the castle of Nantes has revealed some astonishing new facts concerning the career of Gilles de Retz, or de Rais, one of the most amazing and dreadful figures in all history.

Gilles de Retz is believed to have been the original of "Bluebeard," the famous old French story by Perrault. In the story he is described as a monster who has murdered six wives and has just taken a seventh. He gives her the key of a room in his castle and says "That is the one room which you must on no account enter."

Of course, she enters and there she sees the heads of her six murdered predecessors. By great good luck she escapes from the castle.

The Baron de Retz, who served as the original of this story, was executed at Nantes in 1440 for the horrible murder of many children, but he had also killed a number of women, although they were not his wives.

The new discoveries indicate that De Retz was really a pioneer of science, misled by his enthusiasm into criminal ways, a vivisectionist of great ability, carried by his technical

ardor into carelessness of human agony, and a physician who achieved, in the fifteenth century much knowledge that has been lost until the present day. In his experiments in the transplantation of organs he was a rival of his countryman, Dr. Alexis Carrel, now the chief investigator of the Rockefeller Institute, New York, and in his observations on the ductless glands, he was a predecessor of Professor Lorrain, of Paris.

Gilles de Retz was a nobleman of great birth and tremendous possessions. He lived at the height of the feudal period, when great lords were able to defy the king. He held great domains on the borders of Brittany and Normandy, and was allied by birth to the most powerful feudal houses of France.

He held the strong castles of Machecoul, Chamboeuf and Tiffange, and immense territories around them. One of these castles, Machecoul, still exists, a magnificent ruin.

De Retz fought valiantly with Joan of Arc, played an important part in helping her raise the siege of Orleans and was made a marshal for his services in driving the English out of France. After that event he disappeared from public life and plunged into scientific and mystical researches within his domains.

A genuine desire for scientific knowledge seems to have combined in him with a yearning for the secret that would enable him to transmute

Why We Ought to Be Lazy---Sometimes

By William Lee Howard, M. D.

THE absolutely balanced human being, from a machine point of view, always has periods of laziness—days of necessary indolence. By this I mean if we could have a life free from worry, forced work or unreasonable activity, we would have periods of rest. But progress toward a higher state of mental and physical living prevents any such return to the old days of our savage ancestors, when there were weeks of overactivity followed by weeks of indolence. In those days action and work were governed by the seasons and festivities; the moonlight, feasts, famine, migration and stagnation. Men did only that which was necessary for existence and pleasure. Nights of overfeeding were followed by lean days, and then the work of hunting and foraging went on. All another lazy period intervened.

This trait is still left in all of us—the impulse to work, overwork, and then the desire to loaf. With the man or woman engaged in the strife of living, of getting on, this natural impulse to be lazy at times is overcome by the higher mental activities, which urge on, ever on, to more work; and the effect has been injurious; it has caused too great a strain upon nerves and mind, with the result only too well known to all of us.

It is not nature's way. She has periods of growth and activity; then she becomes lazy

and recuperates. What a tremendous difference between the rush of development in Spring and the restful indolence of Winter!

"She has not a lazy bone in her body," says the farmer of his wife. True; every bit of recuperative power in her has been exhausted. She has no Springtime of radiance; no Winter period for storing up useful energy. She is worn out before her time because she had no opportunities to be lazy. And the working girl is no better off. She should have her days of laziness for the sake of the future race.

The boy or girl accused of being lazy at times is only demonstrating the ancestral sense of storing energy. Give the so-called "lazy boy" something to do in which he is interested—then watch him work. He rushes ahead vigorously, accomplishing his task. When it is finished he becomes lazy for a while, until another task is taken up.

This is a natural state, and only when he outgrows, or rather, submerges it, does he cease to have lazy periods. This means a loss of energy in time. Drive him from one task to another; push, rush him on the same daily, weekly labor without periods of laziness or play, and we get that deplorable, sad youth who grows to be a dissatisfied, useless or broken man.

Laziness is as necessary for the health as work, but as in all things it must be properly controlled and the reason for its being a part of man's life understood.



Ruins of Baron de Retz's Castle of Machecoul in Brittany Where Many Bones of Victims and Other Relics of His Dreadful Career Have Been Found.



Joan of Arc Entering Orleans. The Bearded Man in Armor Riding Behind Her Is Baron de Retz.